
EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 1

In Senate, Jan. 11, 1921.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and sent down for concurrence. Five hundred copies ordered printed.

L. ERNEST THORNTON, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Garcelon of Androscoggin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE

RESOLVE, Proposing an Amendment to Section Five, Article Four, Part First, of the Constitution, as Amended by the Twenty-third Amendment, Relative to Absent Voting.

Resolved: Two-thirds of the legislature concurring, that
2 the following amendment to the constitution of the state
3 of Maine be proposed:

Section five, article four, part first, of the constitution of
2 Maine as amended by the twenty-third amendment, is hereby
3 further amended by striking out the word "present" in the
4 fifth and thirty-fourth lines thereof, so that said section as
5 amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 5. The meetings within this state for the choice

29 the secretary's office, as provided in article second, section
30 four, of this constitution; and twenty days before the said
31 first Wednesday of January, biennially, shall issue a sum-
32 mons to such persons as shall appear to be elected by a
33 plurality of all the votes returned, to attend and take their
34 seats. But all such lists shall be laid before the house of
35 representatives on the first Wednesday of January bien-
36 nially, and they shall finally determine who are elected. The
37 electors resident in any city may, at any meeting duly noti-
38 fied for the choice of representatives, vote for such repre-
39 sentatives in their respective ward meetings, and the wardens
40 in said wards shall preside impartially at such meetings,
41 receive the votes of all qualified electors, sort, count and
42 declare them in open ward meetings, and in the presence
43 of the ward clerk, who shall form a list of the persons
44 voted for, with the number of votes for each person against
45 his name, shall make a fair record thereof in the presence
46 of the warden, and in open ward meetings; and a fair copy
47 of this list shall be attested by the warden and ward clerk,
48 sealed up in open ward meeting, and delivered to the city
49 clerk within twenty-four hours after the close of the polls.
50 And the electors resident in any city may at any meetings
51 duly notified and holden for the choice of any other civil
52 officers for whom they have been required heretofore to
53 vote in town meeting, vote for such officers in their re-
54 spective wards, and the same proceedings shall be had by
55 the warden and ward clerk in each ward, as in the case of

56 votes for representatives. And the aldermen of any city
57 shall be in session within twenty-four hours after the close
58 of the polls in such meetings, and in the presence of the
59 city clerk shall open, examine and compare the copies from
60 the lists of votes given in the several wards, of which the
61 city clerk shall make a record, and return thereof shall be
62 made into the secretary of state's office in the same manner
63 as selectmen of towns are required to do.'

Resolved, That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of
2 towns, and the assessors of the several plantations in this
3 state are hereby empowered and directed to notify the in-
4 habitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations
5 in the manner prescribed by law, at the next biennial meet-
6 ings in the month of September, to give in their votes upon
7 the amendment proposed in the foregoing resolution, and
8 the question shall be: "Shall the constitution be amended
9 as proposed by a resolution of the legislature allowing voters
10 absent from voting districts on the day of election, to vote?"

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations
2 shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the
3 amendment expressing it by the word "Yes" upon their
4 ballots and those opposed to the amendment by the word
5 "No" upon their ballots, and the ballots shall be received,
6 sorted, counted, and declared in open ward, town and plan-
7 tation meetings, and returns made to the office of the secre-
8 tary of state in the same manner as votes for governor and
9 members of the legislature, and the governor and council

10 shall count the same, and if it shall appear that a majority
11 of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of
12 the amendment, it shall thereupon become a part of the
13 constitution, and the governor shall forthwith make known
14 the fact by his proclamation.

Resolved, That the secretary of state shall prepare and
2 furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots
3 and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing resolves
4 accompanied by a copy thereof.

